

CRAIG NIGRELLI DEPARTS KOAT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the finest and most respected news anchors in New Mexico—Craig Nigrelli. Craig is departing KOAT television of Albuquerque, New Mexico, after a strong four-year run. He will soon be leaving for KSTP-TV in Minnesota. Before he departs, I would like to reflect on his career.

Craig is one of New Mexico's most highly respected broadcast journalists. He joined the Action 7 News anchor desk in February 2000. As a popular morning and noontime anchor, he has commanded high ratings against some tough competition and is often credited with making a major contribution toward building KOAT's solid reputation.

In 1989, Craig received his B.A. degree in Communications/Economics from Rutgers University. He began his broadcasting career in radio as an anchor/reporter for radio station WJLL-AM in Niagara Falls, New York, and then as anchor/reporter for WBEN-AM in Buffalo, New York, from May 1991 until June 1993. In April 1993, Craig made the move to television as a general assignment reporter for WIVB-TV in Buffalo, and became the station's anchor/co-anchor from October 1995 until January 2000. During this time, he was praised for his reports on the crash of TWA Flight 800, the one-year anniversary of the federal-building bombing in Oklahoma, and the FBI raid on Timothy McVeigh's childhood home near Buffalo. This extensive experience prepared him well for his successful tenure at KOAT.

Throughout his years at KOAT, Craig has developed a reputation in the New Mexico political community for being one of the few TV reporters to whom the moniker "political reporter" is applied. He has been a major presence on KOAT election coverage, and his departure will leave a void in this busy year. After being interviewed dozens of times by Craig, I can honestly say that I do not know his political affiliation or leanings. He has asked me, and countless other elected officials and candidates, the tough questions that New Mexico viewers want to know. I do not think there can be a higher compliment than that for a journalist.

On February 16, I will travel to the KOAT studio in Albuquerque for what will probably be my last interview with Craig on the noon news. I have no doubt that he will be missed by his colleagues and viewers alike for his judgment, experience, toughness under pressure, and his wonderful sense of humor. He will be gone, but not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Craig the best of luck in all his future endeavors. His dedication to quality journalism cannot be understated, and I am pleased to have been able to honor him here today. While Craig and his lovely wife, Carol, embark on a new chapter in their life, I want them to know they will always have friends in New Mexico.

A TRIBUTE TO FORMER NORTH CAROLINA CONGRESSMAN DAVID HENDERSON FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise here today to pay tribute to one of North Carolina's greatest public servants, former Congressman David Henderson. With true dedication and talent, Congressman Henderson left a lasting mark on his community, his state, and his country.

Born in Wallace, North Carolina, in 1921, David Henderson began a life of accomplishment that spanned from a Major in the U.S. Air Corps to Congressman of the United States. After graduating from Davidson College in 1942, Henderson served his country overseas in India, China, and Okinawa, only to return to the University of North Carolina Law School to earn a law degree in 1949. He held numerous leadership positions throughout his career including: solicitor and judge of the Duplin County General Court, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Post Office and Civil Service Committee, Member of the Governor's Advisory Boards for Economic Development and Aviation, Member of the Duplin County Board of Economic Development, and even Fireman of the Year for the Wallace County Volunteer Fire Department.

Although Congressman Henderson earned many achievements throughout his life, his greatest accomplishment was securing legislation to establish the Cape Lookout National Seashore along the Outer Banks. His commitment to preserving this natural landmark created one of the most popular coastal parks in the United States. Prior to serving sixteen years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Henderson came to Washington to serve as Assistant Counsel to the House Education and Labor Committee, and the Chief Staffer of an investigating sub-committee chaired by Congressman John F. Kennedy.

Former Congressman Henderson passed away on January 7, 2004, but will be remembered for his endless contributions to our society. This nation was blessed to have known and honored a true public servant.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ERIC AND GRACE CROSS**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of two great people from my district. Eric and Grace Cross, who spent the last 32 years of their life in Alamosa, Colorado, recently passed away at the ages of 76 and 74. The Crosses dedicated their lives to public service and to the challenging fields of teaching and missionary work. I am honored today to bring their contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Eric and Grace met as teenagers at the Briercrest Bible Institute, and after their mar-

riage in 1949, moved to Ecuador for four years to work as missionaries. They served an additional six years as missionaries in Del Rio, Texas before moving to Alamosa. Eric later earned a Bachelor's Degree in special education from Adams State College and the two of them continued to minister to the migrants who worked the fields of the San Luis Valley.

In 1966, after a move to Palisade, Colorado, Eric became a teacher, and later principal, at the Regional Center, where Grace also worked as a technician and later a dorm supervisor. At night, Eric earned his Masters degree in special education at Western State College. In what little spare time Eric had left he served as an interim minister in churches throughout western Colorado and eastern Utah. When Eric and Grace retired, they continued to serve the Alamosa community, coordinating the soup kitchen and help desk for the Palisade Migrant Center.

Mr. Speaker, Eric and Grace were dedicated people that selflessly served their community and country and I am honored to pay tribute to them here today. Their lifetime of service is an incredible model for all Americans and my thoughts and prayers go out to their families during this difficult time of bereavement.

THE LOSS OF CAPTAIN MATTHEW J. AUGUST**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a soldier in Iraq, a Rhode Island citizen who served with dignity and honor. I join the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

On Tuesday, January 27, U.S. Army Captain Matthew J. August was killed in Khalidiyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device exploded next to his convoy. Captain August was commander of B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion out of Fort Riley, Kansas. A resident of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, Capt. August graduated in 1993 from Bishop Hendricken High School—my alma mater—and then further distinguished himself as a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1997. It was at West Point that he met his wife, Captain Maureen August, who also served in Iraq in the 1st Armored Division.

Last week, I was honored to join Captain August's wife, his parents, Donna and Richard August, his older brother Mark, his younger sister Melanie, and other family and friends at a memorial service in Rhode Island. Those who knew him well spoke highly of his kindness, his commitment to his wife and family, and his patriotism and love of service. He was described as a natural leader who earned the respect of all those he encountered.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their Nation called them to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and the security of their neighbors, they answered without hesitation. We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, but also as